



FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, policy analyst

TRAINING

On June 2, 2014, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): 2014 FSA Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals. The 2014 FSA Training Conference will be held Dec. 2-5, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Conference hours will begin Tuesday at 8 a.m. and end Friday at 3 p.m. Some of the topics for this year's conference program will include changes and updates to the following:

- Clery Act concerning sexual assaults
- FAFSA
- Gainful Employment
- Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Limits
- Loan Repayment Options
- Verification
- Return to Title IV
- Federal Regulations

Registration and lodging information can be found at <http://fsaconferences.ed.gov>.

Dear Colleague Letter [ANN-14-12](#) was published by the USDE June 6, 2014: EDEExpress Online Training-EDEExpress Release 1.0 Online Training for 2014-2015. This online training is available on the Federal Student Aid E-Training website located at <http://fsatraining.info>. This self-

paced course provides step-by-step instruction on EDEExpress Release 1.0 functionality, including the Global, App Express and Packaging software modules.

Dear Colleague Letter [ANN-14-13](#) was published June 27, 2014: Live Internet Webinars-150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit Webinar #4 and Webinar #5: New NSLDS Program-Level Enrollment Reporting Requirements. These webinars will focus on new requirements and enhancements to the NSLDS enrollment reporting process. This information is essential to both financial aid administrators and institutional registrars. Register for both webinars at <http://fsaregistration.ed.gov/d/v4qdvp>.

REFERENCE GUIDES

On June 6, 2014, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) on the availability of Volume 1-Student Eligibility of the 2014-2015 Federal Student Aid Handbook. Links to [Volume 1](#) and the complete [2014-2015 Federal Student Aid Handbook](#) are included in the announcement.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE June 9, 2014: Updated EDconnect Installation & User Guide Now Available on FSAdownload. An updated version of the EDconnect Installation &



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User Guide is now available on the [Federal Student Aid Download](#) website. Information on the 533 error has been added to Section 7.1.5 of the guide, to include a description of what may trigger a 533 error and how to respond.

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) June 24, 2014: 2014-2015 SAR Comment Codes and Text Guide (June 2014 Update). This updated reference guide can be found on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website under Publications and at <https://www.fsadownload.ed.gov>.

COHORT DEFAULT RATES

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) June 6, 2014: Default Rates for Cohort Years 2007-2011. The four types of rates measured by the Department are explained in an attachment to the announcement and include the 2-Year and 3-Year Cohort Default Rates, the Budget Lifetime Default Rate and the Cumulative Lifetime Default Rate.

VERIFICATION

On June 18, 2014, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Reporting Verification Results of an Applicant's Identity and High School Completion Status

Using FAA Access to CPS Online.

Clarification on which FAFSA applicants an institution must report on, the conditions for each Identity Verification Results value and when results must be reported are provided in this announcement. Reporting applicant responses for V4 and V5 identity and high school completion status documentation is in addition to, and does not replace, normal required verification status results reporting to the Common Origination and Disbursement System. Acceptable documentation for verification of both identity and high school completion for 2014-2015 can be found in the [Federal Register](#) published by the USDE on June 13, 2013.

A [Federal Register](#) Notice was published by the USDE on June 25, 2014: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Information To Be Verified for the 2015-2016 Award Year. The associated Dear Colleague Letter [GEN-14-11](#) published on June 30, 2014 contains clarification and guidance for some of the acceptable documentation requirements. Verification Tracking Groups have also been updated for the 2015-2016 Award Year.

TECHNICAL

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) June 20, 2014: Guidance for



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EDEXpress 2014-2015 Direct Loan and TEACH Grant Users on Updating Software Setup and Existing Records after Release 3.0 Upgrade. This announcement provides guidance and recommendations for users of the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant software modules in conjunction with the EDEXpress 2014-2015, Release 3.0. This guidance is specifically for users who created Direct Loan and TEACH Grant records in EDEXpress 2014-2015, Release 2.0, which posted in April 2014. Those records must be updated with new required data elements after you upgrade to Release 3.0. New required and optional setup options will help you update your 2014-2015 Direct Loan records more quickly and efficiently for COD processing.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE June 23, 2014: Availability of EDEXpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 3.0. Upgrades provided in EDEXpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 3.0, include critical enhancements related to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit and other new data reporting requirements for the 2014-2015 Award Year. Also implemented are enhancements to the functionality of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet. The new version is

available for download at <https://fsadownload.ed.gov>.

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) June 26, 2014: Implementation of Electronic Signature and Two Factor Authentication for eCampus-Based Website in August 2014. Two key changes were implemented August 1, 2014. All eCB Website users are now required to use a Federal Student Aid User ID, password and TFA token to log in to the eCB Website. Information is provided in the announcement regarding the following:

- Electronic Signature Available Aug. 1, 2014
- eCB User Registration
- Two Factor Authentication
- TFA Tokens and Registration
- Contact Information for those needing further assistance

STATE AUTHORIZATION

On June 24, 2014, the USDE published a Notice in the [Federal Register](#): State Authorization Delay of Implementation. The implementation date for certain State authorization regulations has been postponed until July 1, 2015, for institutions who do not currently meet the requirements of these regulations. This is provided the State is working to establish an acceptable



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authorization process that will take effect by the delayed implementation date.

DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM CLOSEOUT

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) June 26, 2014: Additional 2012-2013 Direct Loan Program Year Closeout Information. This announcement provides important reminders and supplements previous guidance issued [Feb. 4, 2014](#) and [May 6, 2014](#). To be considered successfully closed out, a school must-

- Have an Ending Cash Balance of \$0 and Total Net Unbooked Disbursements of \$0 internally, and as reflected on the School Account Statement, and
- Complete the Balance Confirmation on the [COD website](#).

There are several questions and answers in the announcement to clarify the process further.

FORMS

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE June 23, 2014: 2013-2014 Campus-Based Reallocation Form and Process to Request Supplemental Federal Work Study Funds for 2014-2015 (Updated

June 26, 2014). The announcement provides important information about the reallocation process and indicates the availability of the 2013-2014 Campus-Based Reallocation Form. Schools use this process to release unexpended portions of their 2013-2014 allocations in the Federal Work-Study or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs and to request supplemental 2014-2015 FWS funds that will be used to employ students in community service jobs. The deadline by which schools must submit the form is Monday, Aug. 18, 2014, 12:00 midnight ET.

NSLDS

On June 27, 2014, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Enhancements to MyStudentData Download on NSLDS. The “MyStudentData Download” functionality was enhanced on the [NSLDS Student Access](#) website on June 30, 2014. With MyStudentData Download, students were able to download their loan, grant, enrollment, overpayment and program enrollment information from the NSLDS into a machine-readable, plain text file. Enhancements to this feature will add the following information to the downloadable file in an effort to provide students the most current and helpful data.

- Student contact information



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- 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit (SULA) information
- Additions to the list of valid loan type values
- Loan subsidy information
- Program enrollment information
- Appendix A with sample output

The USDE published a [Newsletter](#) June 30, 2014: Newsletter 46: June 2014 Enhancements to NSLDS. Recent enhancements to the NSLDS, the [NSLDS Professional Access website](#) and the [NSLDS Student Access website](#) are explained in the newsletter. Modifications include updates to support the 150 percent Direct Subsidized Loan Limit, updates to enrollment reporting and enhancements to NSLDS reports.